

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 338

By Rose

A RESOLUTION to commend Senator Mark Norris for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the Senate.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body honor those fellow legislators who performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mark Norris of Collierville is one such distinguished public servant, who served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and ability; and

WHEREAS, Mark Norris recently resigned from the Senate upon his confirmation as a federal judge in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he previously served as special counsel at Adams and Reese LLP and as a partner at Armstrong Allen, PLLC; and

WHEREAS, Mark Norris distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of Tipton and Shelby counties, representing the 32nd Senate District as a member of the 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, and 110th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Norris is a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Shelby County, having previously served with distinction as a member and chair of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Mark Norris received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Colorado College and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver; he is a member of the Memphis Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Bar Association,

the Federal Bar Association, the National Health Lawyers Association, the Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association, and the Transportation Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, he has been admitted to the bar of the State of Tennessee as well as the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, throughout his service in the Senate, Mark Norris was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process during his time in the General Assembly, Senator Norris rendered sterling service as a member of the Senate Ethics Committee, the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the Senate State and Local Government Committee, the Senate Delayed Bills Committee, the Senate Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Committee, the Senate Government Operations Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Commerce Committee, the Joint Pensions and Insurance Committee, the Joint Select Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Joint Select Committee on Workers Compensation, and the Joint Business Tax Committee; he served as chair of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the Senate Rules Committee, the Senate Transportation Committee, and the Senate Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; 1st vice chair and 2nd vice chair of the Senate Calendar Committee; and 2nd vice chair of the Senate Ethics Committee; and

WHEREAS, vice chair of the Shelby County legislative delegation, Senator Norris served as chair of the Senate Republican Caucus in 2006 and Senate Majority Leader for the 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, and 110th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Mark Norris was an executive committee member and chair of the Council of State Governments, and he served as vice chair, chair-elect, and chair of the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, Mark Norris has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and leading by example; and

WHEREAS, he has served as chair of the Senate Presidents' Forum, Inc., and trustee of the Tennessee Historical Society, and he serves on the board of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, Tennessee State Workforce Development Board, LaunchTN, Southern States Energy, Chickasaw Basin Authority, Memphis Research Consortium, Memphis and Shelby County New Arena Public Building Authority, Shelby County Crime Commission, and Coordinated Response to Elder Abuse/Vulnerable Adult Protective Investigative Team; and

WHEREAS, Mark Norris also gives back to his community through his work with the Memphis Agricultural Club, Tennessee and Shelby County Farm Bureau, Tennessee Technology Development Corporation Board, National Rifle Association, National Association of Sportsmen Legislators, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, National Federation of Independent Business, Tennessee Statesmen, Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, Sons of the American Revolution, and Leo Bearman, Sr., American Inn of Court; he was a member of Leadership Tennessee Class of 2017, Leadership Memphis Class of 1991, and WestStar Class of 1999; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his time and talents to The Nature Conservancy, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Tennessee County Commissioners Association, Tennessee Firearms Association, National Ornamental Metal Museum, Memphis and Shelby County Sports Authority, Memphis Cook Convention Center, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Memphis, Shelby County Juvenile Court Advisory Council, St. George's Independent Schools Foundation, St. George's High School, St. George's Day School, The MED Foundation, Buckman Boys Club, The Phoenix, Inc., Goals for Memphis, Junior League Advisory Board, Memphis in May, the Dyersburg Army Air Base Memorial Association, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Advisory Board, and the National Conference of Republican County Officials; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Senator Norris is the recipient of the 2017 Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Award, the 2017 Friend of the Flame Award from the Tennessee Gas Association, the 2015 Bobby Dunavant Public Service Award, and the 2016 Aging Impact Award, presented by the Southeast Association of Area Agencies on Aging; he was named a Life Fellow by the American Bar Foundation and is the recipient of Leadership Recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a Certificate of

Appreciation from the Department of Defense, and a Distinguished Service to the States Medal from the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, he has twice been named Outstanding State Senator by the County Officials Association of Tennessee, and he has been named Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee School Counseling Association, the Tennessee 911 Association, the Northwest Tennessee Development District, the Tennessee Development District Association, the Memphis Medical Society, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, the Tennessee Public Transportation and Safety Association, the Tennessee Parent-Teacher Association, the Tennessee School Boards Association, and the Memphis Area Association of Governments; and

WHEREAS, Mark Norris is the recipient of the Silver Bayonet Award from AMVETS, the Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business, the Silver Good Citizenship Medal from the Isaac Shelby Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Community Service Award from the Tennessee Medical Association, the Legislative Award from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the Henry Toll Fellowship from the Council of State Governments, the Distinguished Service Award from the Shelby County Soil Conservation District, the Chairman's Award from the Shelby County Republican Party, the Community Service Award from the Phoenix Old Timers, the Environmental Achievement Award from the Sierra Club, and the Ira Samelson Distinguished Service Award from the Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, twice named one of the Best Lawyers in America, Litigation-Municipal, he has been recognized as a Mid-South Super Lawyer, Business Litigation; he has been named a Champion of Commerce by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce as well as a Champion of Life Science by Life Science Tennessee; he is a member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences and is the recipient of the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from the Tennessee Parent-Teacher Association; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mark Norris has been listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in American Politics*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*,

Who's Who in the World, and the "Who's Who" Top 100 Movers, Shakers and Newsmakers in *Memphis Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career as a public servant, Mark Norris worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mark Norris is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Senator Mark Norris for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the Senate, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 32nd Senate District, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.